

# KICKSHAWS

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*Readers are encouraged to send their favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws editor at [drABC26@aol.com](mailto:drABC26@aol.com). Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.*

## **THIS GOOD BOOK, CHAP. 1 (without that fifth symbol of our ABC's)**

The New Year brings new beginnings. I used the King James Version of the Bible to create this version of the beginning of Genesis, which excludes the letter E. You may wish to check it against the original, which can be found on the web. May the spirit of Gadsby bless these words.

1:1 In starting God built that sky and this world.

1:2 And this world was without form, and void; and dark was upon this physiognomy of that abyss. And this Spirit of God was moving upon this physiognomy of that H<sub>2</sub>O.

1:3 And God said, Allow light: and it was light.

1:4 And God saw this light, that it was good: and God was dividing this light from that dark.

1:5 And God was calling this light Day, and that dark God was calling Night. And that night with that morning was that first day.

1:6 And God said, Allow an arch of sky amidst that H<sub>2</sub>O, and allow it for dividing this H<sub>2</sub>O from that H<sub>2</sub>O.

1:7 And God was making this arch of sky, and was dividing this H<sub>2</sub>O which was down from this arch of sky from that H<sub>2</sub>O which was up from this arch of sky: and it was so.

1:8 And God was calling this arch of sky Holy Habitat. And that night with that morning was day two.

1:9 And God said, Allow this H<sub>2</sub>O in low ground from that holy habitat join unto a location, and allow this dry land to show up: and it was so.

1:10 And God was calling this dry land World; and that joining of this H<sub>2</sub>O God was calling Gigantic Ponds; and God saw that it was good.

1:11 And God said, Allow this world to bring forth grass, that plant giving growth balls, and that woody fruit plant giving fruit following his kind, who has growth balls of its own, upon this world, and it was so.

1:12 And this world brought forth grass, and plant giving growth balls following his kind, and that woody plant giving fruit, who has growth balls of its own, following his kind: and God saw that it was good.

1:13 And that night with that morning was that third day.

1:14 And God said, Allow lights in this arch of sky of that holy habitat for dividing this day from that night; and allow both to stand for signs, and for four annual divisions, and for days, and for this world's circlings of its sun:

1:15 And allow all for lights in that arch of sky of that holy habitat to put light upon this world: and it was so.

1:16 And God was making two grand lights; a big light for ruling this day, and a small light for ruling that night: God was making stars also.

1:17 And God put stars in that arch of sky of that holy habitat for giving light upon this world.

1:18 And for ruling this day and that night, and for dividing this light from that dark: and God saw that it was good.

1:19 And that night with that morning was day four.

1:20 And God said, Allow this H<sub>2</sub>O to bring forth abundantly this moving animal that hath a living body, and fowl that may fly high upon this world in this arch of sky of holy habitat.

1:21 And God was making giant fishy mammals, and all living animals that go, which that H<sub>2</sub>O brought forth abundantly, along with that kind, and all fowls with wings of his kind: and God saw that it was good.

1:22 And God was making all animals holy, saying, Grow fruitful, and multiply, and fill that H<sub>2</sub>O in gigantic ponds, to multiply in this world.

1:23 And that night with that morning was that fifth day.

1:24 And God said, Allow this world to bring forth that living animal following his kind, bulls and cows, and crawling thing, and animal of this world following his kind: and it was so.

1:25 And God was making an animal of this world in imitation of his kind, and bulls and cows following that kind, and all things crawling upon this world following his kind: and God saw that it was good.

1:26 And God said, Allow us for making man in our similarity, following our copy: and allow man and woman to maintain dominion of fish from gigantic ponds, and of bulls and cows, and of all this world, and of all crawling things that crawl upon this world.

1:27 So God built man in his own similarity; in that similarity of God built this that; man and woman built this both..

1:28 And God was making both holy, and God said unto both, Grow fruitful, and multiply, and supply this world again, and control it: and maintain dominion of all fish of that gigantic pond, and of all fowl of this air, and of all living things moving upon this world.

1:29 And God said, Look, I was giving you all plant producing growth balls, which is upon that physiognomy of all this world, and all woody plants, in which is this fruit of a woody plant producing growth balls; to you it shall function as food..

1:30 And to all animals of this world, and to all fowl of this air, and to all things that crawl upon this world, which is living, I am giving all plants of grassy color for food: and it was so.

1:31 And God saw all things that God was making, and, look, it was truly good. And that night with that morning was day six.

### **A LOW-CAL LIMERICK FOR AULD LANG SYNE**

Bid farewell to those days of good cheer,  
Yes - the time of the diet is here ...  
    Resolute, end excess,  
    Silhouettes re-possess!  
May I wish you a Healthy New Year.

—Doug Harris

### **SARAH'S BACK**

Darryl Francis found a single word transposal the woman who wanted to be veep:

SARAH PALIN = PHARSALIAN (in Webster's 2)

### **WHAT'S THE SECRET WORD?**

According to Mike Keith: "The German word 'geheim' means 'secret', and it contains a secret." The numerical positions of its letters are

7 5 8 5 9 13

and subtracting 4 from each of these gives

3 1 4 1 5 9

...which are the first six digits of the number pi!

The word 'kilim', a type of Eastern rug, is similar: if you subtract 8 from each alphabetical value, you get 3 1 4 1 5."

## FAUNA FUN

"These verses," Susan Thorpe explains, "are constructed around words affiliated to creatures, mainly animal names. Some of these names may be unfamiliar: SIRENIAN (a member of the mammalian order Sirenia - sea cows); SPRINGER (a flying fish); WANDEROO (a langur monkey); STAGGARD (a stag in its 4th year); COMMENSAL (an animal which lives attached to another and shares its food); WARRIGAL (Australian wild dog); KOLINSKI (a mink); HARTEBEEST (an antelope); DIDELPHIS (an opossum); BUSH BABY (an African lemur); FILANDER (an intestinal worm; also a Kangaroo); MASTODON (an extinct elephant-like mammal); POPINJAY (a parrot); PETREL (a small sea bird); CURASSOW (a turkey-like bird); STANYEL (a kestrel)."

"It'SIRENIAN, is there RUMINANT's flat?  
Did you really SPRINGER from the jail.  
I WANDEROO'd let her go like that?"  
"No! She STAGGARD out, but only on bail!"

"Is it PORCUPINE for", asked their mater,  
"Did my ANTEATER lunch today?"  
"Oh, COMMENSAL, don't wait for pater,  
Don't WARRIGAL, he'll be OK".

"Did KOLINSKI down hill all the way?  
He's a HARTEBEEST after a party.  
And what DIDELPHIS have to say?  
Did he sing his hit *don't soB*, 'USH BABY?"

"Did they really FILANDER, Phil and 'er?  
Presumably they MASTODON.  
And did it REINDEER? Do take care,  
Don't get wet, so long, good BISON".

Last NIGHTINGALE I lost my way  
And when, so late, I reached his HOUSE  
(MARTIN had said POPINJAY)  
Oh DEER, I knew that he WOOD GROUSE!

It's come, MIGRANT, I no longer owe,  
I'll be able to afford some PETREL.  
I'll buy a bottle of CURASSOW,  
And that really will make my STANYEL!

## DISGUIISING OLD AGE

“None of us wants to acknowledge old age,” Susan remarks (and we all agree), “so why don’t we do something about it? Suppose we add a single letter to the beginning of OLD and a single letter to the beginning of AGE so that the 2 words again make a sensible phrase: BOLD WAGE, COLD RAGE, FOLD PAGE, GOLD CAGE, HOLD PAGE, SOLD GAGE (another name for a greengage), TOLD SAGE.” Thanks, Susan, but I’m afraid the clock will be *still ticking till sticking*.

## IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE END

Susan offers a suggestion on connecting words alphabetically: “It is relatively easy to produce short phrases/sentences in which each word begins with the same letter that ends the previous word (Has she ever read Dante?) Similarly it is not too hard to repeat the exercise repeating the last 2 letters of a word at the beginning of the following word. Things get rather more difficult when it comes to repeating 3 letters. Here are a few examples.”

MOVE OVER VERA  
 FOUND UNDER DERBY  
 VEGAN GANG ANGRY  
 ANGELA ELATED TED  
 THIS HISTORIAN IAN  
 SHOT HOTEL TELEPHONIST  
 ADORN ORNAMENTAL TALLBOY  
 IRLAM (in Manchester, UK) LAMBAST ASTRAL RALLY  
 YAHOO HOOLIGAN GANGSTER TERRITORY  
 STEVE, EVEN ‘VENERABLE’ BLESSES SESSION  
 ENFIN, FIN’S INSIDE IDEA DEAL ! (at last Fin has come to an agreed price with the decorators)

## RHYMING OPPOSITES

Susan notes that “pairs of words which have opposite, or near opposite, meanings sometimes rhyme with each other.”

TALL – SMALL	BACK – ATTACK	HOME – ROAM	FIGHT - FLIGHT
NIGHT – LIGHT	BAN – CAN	NICE – VICE	WOMB - TOMB
SLOW – GO	CLAW - WITHDRAW		

## AN ELEMENTAL ALPHABET

Susan proposes a game using elements of the element alphabet: “This game uses the symbols of the first 26 elements listed in the Periodic Table. Their atomic numbers are: H(1), He(2), Li(3), Be(4), B(5), C(6), N(7), O(8), F(9), Ne(10), Na(11), Mg(12), Al(13), Si(14), P(15), S(16), Cl(17), Ar(18), K(19), Ca(20), Sc(21), Ti(22), V(23), Cr(24), Mn(25), Fe(26).

Here, their atomic numbers are equated with the numerical positions of the 26 letters of the alphabet in order to make words. Thus Silicon (Si = atomic no. 14. The 14th letter of

the alphabet is N) + Phosphorous (P = atomic no. 15. The 15th letter of the alphabet is O). Hence Si.P = N.O. Here are other pairings:

O.H = H.A      H.O = A.H      P.Si = O.N      He.P = B.O      Ca.P = T.O  
 Be.Ar = D.R      Li.Mn = C.Y      K.O.B = S.H.E      Al.P.S = M.O.P      B.Ar.N = E.R.G  
 Li.P.S = C.O.P      C.Ar.P = F.R.O      P.Al.P = O.M.O      B.Ar.B = E.R.E.      C.H.Ar = F.A.R  
 Sc.Ar.F = U.R.I      C.Ar.P.Al = F.R.O.M      S.H.Ar.K = P.A.R.S

In a few cases, the elemental symbol + its equivalent alphabetical letter together make a word. Thus

Be (Beryllium) = 4, + D = 4 make Be...D. Others include:

5 B...E    8 O...H    13 Al...M    14 Si...N    15 P...O    20 Ca...T    26 Fe...Z

## INVASIVE ROMANS

“One of the words in each of these 2-word pairings contains one or more Roman numeral letters (I, V, X, L, C, D, M) which represent a number when read from left to right in the word,” Susan explains. “Removing these Romans creates the other word. However, life isn’t as easy as that! The 2 words forming the pair have an affinity, in some cases making a phrase.”

### number

1. PARTY PARITY (it’s election time!)
2. HAITI HAT, INUIT NUT, IRANI RAN
3. BIRIANI BRAN?!
4. SEE SIEVE, WES’ WIVES, GIVEN GEN, INVEST NEST (of money), QUIVERY QUERY
5. VEGAN EGAN, VAUNT AUNT
6. JOVIAN JOAN (as an astronomer, Joan always did have a thing about Jupiter)
7. SON’S VISIONS
8. AVISIPI ASP (Avisipi is a location in Turkey; an asp is a small, venomous hooded serpent found in Egypt and Libya, so it has obviously now also found its way into Turkey!)
9. QUOTE QUIXOTE, BEES? - IBEXES!
10. NEXT NET, SETON’S SEXTONS  
These 2 pairs of words together make a 4-word phrase: TEXAS TEAS DETER DEXTER.
11. EXIST - EST (is) these two words are synonyms, albeit across two languages.
50. LEAR’S EARS, LEDGE EDGE, EASE LEASE, FOOD FLOOD, GAZES? - GLAZES!
100. CAPE APE, SECT SET, PATCH PATH
150. CLEARS EARS, ONE CLONE

She invites readers to search for other numbers for which the 2 words have an affinity or make a phrase.

## DESCRIBING LETTERS

(In the previous Kickshaws, this item was printed in Ariel typeface by accident, and it didn't align the columns very well. My computer automatically changes email messages into Ariel. Here is the Times New Roman version—DM)

"The challenge is to identify a particular letter of the alphabet using just a single word, by means other than using the actual name of the letter," Susan writes. "Thus bee, cee etc. are not admitted. A, B, C, I, Q, T, U, Y have straight forward homophones which are not the actual letter names - very obliging! Other letters are identified by a variety of devious means. The letter A can be identified by its homophone 'aye'; it can also be identified by the word 'hearsay' (here's A). Alternatives are also offered for some of the other letters. Can you find words for H, W and Z (the last using either the UK or the US pronunciation - but remember that neither 'zed' nor 'zee' themselves can be used in isolation)?"

A	aye / hearsay	B	be / Sabey (say B)	C	sea/seamy(C me)/si
D	seedy (see D)	E	Uri (you're E) / itsy (its E)	F	effused (F used)
G	sagey (say G)	H		I	eye / aye
J	Jamie (J me)	K	Casey (K see)	L	Ivel (I've L)*
M	emcee (M see)	N	'eden ('ed N - he had!)	O	hero (here O)
P	droopy (drew P)	Q	queue / Kew / cue	R	army (R me)
S	essay (S eh)	T	tea /meaty (me T)/cutie (cue T)	U	you / ewe
V	ivy (I V) /groovy (grew V)	W		X	explain (X plain)
Y	why?	Z			

\*(St. Ivel is a brand name)

## HEADLINES FROM 'THE HEN TIMES'

To add to its chequered history,  
Our chicken's had a hysterectomy.  
No more need to straddle its legs.  
It came to pass - no more eggs!

—Susan Thorpe

## 'Twas BRILLING

Bill Brandt was inspired to write a parody of Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky." As he explains: "When I came across a parody called 'Jabber-Whacky' by Isabelle DiCaprio in the January 1964 issue of *Mad Magazine*, I was inspired to try and write a more current day parody called 'Jabberhackey'. I am sending it to you for Kickshaws. I have also included the parody by DiCaprio and the original by Carroll so you can see how things have evolved." Unfortunately, the *Mad* parody would require copyright permission. Carroll's version can be found by doing a Google search. However, it couldn't bother the copyright lawyers too much if I were to pull a "fair usage" and include the first stanza of DiCaprio's as well as Carroll's, following Bill's version here...

### **Jabberhackey**

'Twas byte-ing, and the cookie coding  
Did ROM and RAM-ble on the LAN;  
The downloads had the spyware checking,  
And all the applications ran.

"Beware the internet, my son!  
The worms that bite, the spams that catch!  
Beware the motherboard, and shun  
The java memory patch!"

He took his memory stick in hand;  
Long time the password key he sought –  
So rested by the firewall core,  
And sat awhile in thought.

And, as in router thought he sat  
The internet, in its domain,  
Came uploading through the memory chips,  
With graphics as it came.

One, two! One, two! Through binary code  
The memory stick went double click!  
He left it dead, and with its bits  
Programming he went back.

"And hast thou slain the internet?  
Come to my website by bug free boy!  
Oh Acer day! Sony, Gateway!"  
He networked in his joy!

'Twas byte-ing, and the cookie coding  
Did ROM and RAM-ble on the LAN;  
The downloads had the spyware checking,  
And all the applications ran.

from **Jabber-Whacky**  
(on dreaming, after falling asleep watching TV)  
by **Isabelle DiCaprio**

'Twas Brillo, and the G.G. Stoves,  
Did Procter-Gamble in the Glade;  
All Pillsbury were the Taystee loaves,  
And in a Minute Maid.



from **Jabberwocky**  
by **Lewis Carroll**

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

## **TRE-ERT**

“Following on from Darryl's piece on palindromic 8-letter surnames in the last Kickshaws,” Jeff Grant writes, “here are the 'dromes from this section of the Palindromicon files. All are surnames except TREXERT. Note that I do not list names with initials, such as T.R.EGGERT. Examples can be found on the Net (using Google search program) through whitepages.com (telephone directories - TDs) or familysearch.org (International Genealogical Index - IGI, U.S. Social Security Death Index - SSDI, Census records).”

TREBERT 25x in U.S. TDs  
TREFERT 5 Illinois residents (1880 U.S. Census)  
TREFFERT 129x in U.S. TDs  
TREGERT Christian and Louise TREGERT of Malmo, Sweden, and Martin TREGERT of Eslov, Sweden (TDs)  
TRELLERT 5x in Canadian TDs  
TREMERT Elizabeth and Richard TREMERT, Cornwall, England, 16th century (IGI)  
TRENERT Caroline TRENERT, born 1875, Philadelphia, U.S. (IGI) Lucie TRENERT, New York, U.S., 1904-88 (SSDI)  
TRENNERT 22x U.S. TDs  
TREPERT Louise TREPERT, 1816-1903, Mary TREPERT, Baltimore, Maryland, married 1797 (IGI)  
TREPPERT George, Jacob and Margaret TREPPERT, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 18th century (IGI)  
TRESERT Caspar TRESERT, born 1802, Duesseldorf Stadt, Prussia (IGI)  
TRESSERT 4 Illinois residents (1880 U.S. Census)  
TREVERT found in England, France, Denmark, Germany and U.S. (IGI) Ernest TREVERT of New York died 1964 (SSDI)  
TREWERT Anna Marie Catherina TREWERT, born c1745, Bosingfeld, Germany (IGI) Joann Philipp TREWERT, born 1758, Kiedrich, Prussia (IGI)  
TREXERT Group Inc. an enterprise in Carrollton, Texas, involved in 'Services, N.E.C. industry' (Net)  
TREYERT Louisa TREYERT, born c1760, Barton, Prussia (IGI)

## **RESERVATIONS FROM ABROAD ABOUT THE NEW US PRESIDENT**

Jeff Grant has these comments on the US election results: “Barack Obama seems like a nice guy. I hope he does a good job. My only reservations are logological... Do people realise they have elected a president with a first name only one letter removed from OSAMA, and the first four letters of his first name reverse to ARAB? The classic (hopeful) palindrome NO OSAMA SOON can easily be changed to NO OBAMA BOON, hardly a positive message for the future. Still, it's only playing with words, isn't it?”

## **A SPORTS SPOONERISM**

Jeff has found a crucial difference between two popular sports: “Hockey players often have the ball skills to make good golfers. It's just a matter of getting it in the hole instead of hitting it in the goal.”

## **ADVERBIAL PLAY: TOM SWIFTIES**

Ove Michaelsen discusses a famous type of joke, perhaps the only type that was inspired by an author's writing style and named after the hero of his stories. “The term ‘tom swiftly’ was taken from the character Tom Swift in a series of adventure books by Edward L. Stratemeyer (1862-1930), published under his pen name Victor Appleton from 1910 to 1935 (five years after his death). Stratemeyer was also the creator of the Bobbsey Twins, Nancy Drew, and the Hardy Boys.

In a tom swiftly, a pun is made on an adverb or adverbial phrase. The examples in this list come from several collections including *Another Almanac of Words at Play* by Willard Espy (1980); *The Oxford Guide to Word Games* by Tony Augarde (1984); and Mark Israel's “Canonical Tomswiftie” page on the World-Wide Web. Those attributed to Antony B. Lake appeared in his book *A Pleasury of Witticisms and Word Play* (1975).”

From Antony Lake:

“This shirt is crumpled,” said the launderer, ironically.

“I wish I could remember the name of that card game,” she said, wistfully.

“I wasn't there,” she remarked, absently.

“Have you anything by Hugo?” asked Les, miserably.

Mark Israel's collection:

“...and lose a few,” said Tom, winsomely.

“Give me some Chinese food,” said Tom, wantonly.

“I'm very popular with women,” said Don, wanly.

“A spirit transported me from the couch to the chair,” said Tom, visibly moved.

“I wonder why uranium is fluorescent,” said Marie, curiously.

“I keep banging my head on things,” Tom said, bashfully.

“I got the first three wrong,” said Tom, forthrightly. —cited by Tony Augarde

“I'll never visit Lilliput,” said Jonathan, swiftly. —Jamie Evans

## VERBAL PLAY: CROAKERS

Ove points out some swift spin-offs: “Another form of tom swift is the ‘croaker,’ invented by Roy Bongartz, in which the verb is key, rather than the adverb. (‘We’ve taken over the government,’ the general cooed.) A ‘double croaker’ or ‘swift croaker’ is one in which the verb and adverb or noun are used as the pun. (‘I spent the day sewing and gardening,’ she hemmed and hawed.)”

Richard Lederer has examples of both types in his *Get Thee to a Punnery* (1988):  
“Look at my shiny kitchen floor, said Tom, waxing enthusiastically.  
“I feel empty inside,” Tom hollered.  
“I’ll glue the sheets of wood back together,” Tom replied.  
“This meat is hard to chew,” Tom beefed, jerkily.  
“I’m a mathematician,” Tom added, summarily.

Mark Israel of Alberta, Canada, provided these.  
“Have it monogrammed,” was Tom’s initial suggestion.  
“I will not finish in fifth place,” Tom held forth.  
“I’ve run out of wool,” said Taylor, knitting his brow. /  
“I can’t mend worth a darn,” said Tom, knitting his brow.  
“I do not have an identity problem,” said Tom, trying to be frank.  
“I’m wearing my wedding ring,” said Tom, with abandon.  
“There’s room for one more,” Tom admitted.

Dave Morice has these in *Alphabet Avenue* (1997), reprinted from *Word Ways*.  
“Your cat scratched me!” said Claude. —Morice  
“Bless this food,” said Grace.—Vernon MacLaren  
“The moon is declining,” said Wayne.—MacLaren  
“I can’t help but wobble in these shoes,” said Lucille.—MacLaren

“In the late ’70s, I stepped off a bus as part of the sole of one of my boots fell off. The second I noticed it, as I reached the last step, the thought came, ‘You picked a fine time to leave me, loose heel.’”

From Mary J. Hazard and James I. Rambo, *Word Ways*, May 1973:  
“I, of course, never use drugs,” he injected, pointedly.  
“I think I’ll end it all,” Sue sighed.

Anonymous classics:  
“This bacon is burnt to a crisp,” said Tom, with panache.  
“That’s the third electric shock I’ve gotten this week!” Tom revolted.  
“I’m dying,” he croaked. —Saturday Review, 1972  
“I do NOT have a dual personality,” said Tom, beside himself.

## CODE BREAKER

Ove emailed the following anonymous piece from the web:

After numerous rounds of 'We don't even know if Osama bin Laden is still alive', Osama himself decided to send George Bush a letter in his own hand writing to let him know he was still in the game. Bush opened the letter and it contained a single line of coded message: 370H-SSV-0773H

Bush was baffled, so he e-mailed it to Condoleezza Rice. Condi and her aides had not a clue either, so they sent it to the FBI. No one could solve it at the FBI so it went to the CIA, and then to MI6. Eventually they asked the Mossad (Israeli intelligence) for help. Within a minute the Mossad emailed the White House with this reply: 'Tell the President he's holding the note up side dn.'"

### **CIDER HOUSE ROLLS**

Louis Phillips has been writing an ongoing humor series called "The Applesauce Chronicles." Here is his latest batch of crushed apples:

#### **WHY CAN'T THEY MAKE UP THEIR MINDS?**

The Possessed by Dostoevsky  
The Unpossessed by Tess Slesinger

\*\*

Did you like talking to the hold-up victim?  
No. He was too stuck up.

Do you know Captain William Lynch?  
Well., I used to hang around with him.

Do you know Elias Howe?  
That guy keeps me in stitches.

Did you ever date Eddie Arcaro?  
Yes. And he has a one-track mind.

Did you like interviewing Humpty Dumpty?  
Naah. He isn't all he is cracked-up to be.

Why didn't you go out to eat with Leonard Bernstein?  
Because he doesn't know how to conduct himself in public.

\*\*

When race driver A.J. Foyt was at the Indy 500, he hurt his left foot, so he took off his shoe and placed it inside his racecar. His son came

along, picked up the shoe, and liked it so much that he decided to wear it for good luck. When people asked what happened to the shoe, the reply, of course, was:

THE SHOE IS ON THE OTHER FOYT.

\*\*

DIRECTOR MAX REINHARDT MEETS TOM MIX AND INQUIRES IF THE COWBOY STAR IS MEXICAN

Max,  
Mix.  
Mix,  
Max.  
Mex,  
Mix?  
No.

\*\*

If TV actress GALE STORM had married C.P. Snow, and then had divorced him to marry the Prince of Monaco, would she be known as:

GALE STORM SNOW RAINIER

\*\*

THE ANSWER IS: JOSH BILLINGS  
THE QUESTION IS: What do you call invoices from gag writers?

\*\*

LOVE-MAKING WITH NOAH WEBSTER

After has a glow,  
But before has a hand.

\*\*

What' the difference between an illegal ship passenger and the author of UNCLE TOM'S CABIN going on vacation?  
One is a stowaway; the other is Stowe away.

\*\*

FREE-RANGE VOCABULARY

Do you wish to talk the way the cowboys of Dodge City once talked? Then try to match the phrases below with their proper (or improper) meanings. If you get 5 right, consider yourself a real ranch hand.

_____ 1. sugar eater	A. the cook
_____ 2, grub slinger	B. sleeping roll
_____ 3. flea bag	C. butter made of fat mixed with molasses
_____ 4. woolies	D. a muddy puddle
_____ 5, younker	E. sheep
_____ 6. yack	F. a stupid person
_____ 7. salt horse	G. a pampered horse
_____ 8, loblolly	H. corned beef
_____ 9. sop	I. A child
_____ 10. Charlie Taylor	J. gravy

### **A LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO WRITE**

Louis wrote the following long title which happens to have a short poem sitting underneath it:

THE WOMAN WHO WROTE THE STORY UPON WHICH THE FILM "ALL ABOUT EVE" IS BASED AND A FORMER HOCKEY STAR VISIT MY HOME AND THEN I NOTICE SOMETHING IS MISSING

Either Mary Orr  
Or  
Bobby Orr  
Took my oar  
To dig ore  
In the state of Or.  
Or  
Do I err?

### **UNSCRIPTED TV SHOW CONTEST**

Ray Love describes a contest that had hilarious results: "In early 2008, just before the writer's strike ended, the Washington Post conducted a word contest inviting readers to submit entries that invented a new unscripted TV show by slightly changing the title of a current or past show and explaining its premise. Here are some of the submissions."

THE WINNER:

"Thee's Company", The history of Quaker Oats.

ALSO-RANS:

"Missionary: Impossible", A documentary on the sex lives of extremely obese men.

"Talcum in the Middle", A Lifetime Channel special on treating diaper rash.

"Where in the World is San Diego, Carmen?", A game show exploiting the geographical illiteracy of Americans.

"Mister Roget's Neighborhood", A PBS show listing synonyms for the

Word of The Week.

"The A-Teat", A reality show about runway models.

"One Lay at a Time", A game show whose contestants must go without a second potato chip in order to win prizes. (What did you think it was about?)

"Gilligan's Isthmus", Seven people thrown together on a ship by the producers are shipwrecked and then live together as castaways because they are too stupid to walk back to civilization.

"Touched by an Anvil", A Wilie E. Coyote marathon.

"Unsmoke", A lone marshal attempts to enforce the cigarette ban in Dodge City's restaurants.

"Dine Nasty", Miss Manners uses a concealed camera to humiliate people who chew with their mouths open and pick their teeth at the table.

#### ALSO-RAY'S

Ray writes about his own attempts: "This looked like fun so I decided to try some of my own. I'm not much of a TV watcher, but I'm familiar with the names of most programs. Here are mine, the good, the bad and the ugly."

"American Idle", Drama about life in the U. S. during an economic downturn.

"Just Chute Me", An adventure series about a group of fun-loving skydivers.

"Mad About Ewe", A documentary on the life of a sheepherder who sleeps with his flock.

"Deface the Nation", Public affairs program focusing on litterbugs and graffitist.

"Kidneyland", Anatomical show for children taking a fun look at the abdominal organs.

"American Blandstand", Teenagers dancing to an hour of elevator music.

"CLassie", The adventures of a collie that inherited 10 million dollars.

"Gnash Bridges", Health Network show discussing the annoying habit of grinding one's false teeth.

"Hoppy Days", A kid's program about the life and times of a rascally rabbit.

"Hooter Nanny", Reality show starring a big-busted babysitter and her interaction with out-of-control children.

"Father Knows Breast", Sitcom starring the male parent of out-of-control children who interacts with hooter nanny.

"TailSpin City", Sitcom about a bumbling mayor who leads his town into bankruptcy by his political ineptitude.

"The Art Linkletterman Show", Late night talk show where kids say the darndest things.

"Shy Anne", Western series filmed in and about Wyoming with a reticent female heroine.

"The Perry Coma Show", Musical variety show where the guests try to keep the host awake.

"Name That Toon", An animated morning game show for kids.

"The Phil Slivers Show", Sitcom featuring a sergeant who is a thorn in the side of the Army.

"Little Horse on the Prairie", A Western about a family who owns a spirited Shetland pony.

"Antiques Roadkill", Appraisal show about the value of skins taken from old animals found dead on highways.

"The Mud Squad", Documentary about political shenanigans.

"Magnum, P.U.", Drama featuring an inept detective on the police farce who stinks up the department.

"Snots Landing", Game show where contestants with colds try to blow their noses without using their hands.

"Murder, She Committed", Detective drama about the pursuit of a female serial killer.

"Texas Ranger, With a Walker", Western about an 80-year-old marshal who battles criminals with his cane.

"Buffy, the Umpire Slayer", Drama about a disgruntled baseball fan.

"M\*I\*S\*H\*M\*A\*S\*H", Staccato comedy with no plot, no story, about nothing, but very funny. (Forerunner to Seinfeld.)

"Family Sties", Documentary on life in a pigpen among the swine.

"The Flip-off Wilson Show", Variety show that always ends with one of the guests giving the bird to the host.

"Perry's Mason Jar", PBS cooking show where contestants taste-test Perry's home canning and try to guess what it is.

"The Golden Grilles", Game show where old ladies try to identify antique automobiles just by viewing their front ends.

"Hill Street Booze", Drama about the life of an alcoholic family.

"Night Quart", Spin-off of "Hill Street Booze".

"Barnacle Jones", Adventure series about a sea captain who solves cases of piracy.

"Burke's Slaw", Food Channel program discussing and preparing all kinds of gourmet sides.

"Who Would Want to be a Millionaire?", Documentary about billionaires who became millionaires during the current recession.

"Real or Not Real", Quiz show where 26 sexy models strut their stuff in front of a contestant who must pass judgment on their cleavage.

"Dancing With Steers", PBS program on the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain. (We find out the bulls are running because castrators are chasing them.)

"Dennis Jimenez", Sitcom starring a mischievous Hispanic boy who is always getting into trouble.

## **ELECTRIFYING!**

Ray, an ex-Reader's Digest writer, writes: "In 1988 I sent this to the Reader's Digest," This was back in the good old days when they had a Toward More Picturesque Speech section. Had they accepted more of my offerings, perhaps today there still would be that department of clever wordplay. However, the magazine has adapted to the times and changed some traditions. I don't mind progress so long as nothing changes."

"Ohm On The Range"

"Watt's New"



"Ampere Ever Blowing Bubbles"  
"Those Lazy-AC-Crazy Days of Summer" (By Nat King Cold)  
"Switchcraft"  
"Watt a Difference a Faraday Made"  
"Fuse Got The Money, Honey, I've Got The Time"  
"Cell Be Coming 'Round The Mountain"  
"Ion ... I said"  
"Wire You Blue"  
"Watt Kind of Fuel Am I"  
"Old Volts At Home"  
"Tuxedo Junction Box"

### **TGIF, ETC**

Some more wordplayistic observations by Ray:

“When we say TGIF, consider it a GIFT for the upcoming weekend, and not an instruction for putting on your socks or shoes: Toes Go In First.

ECNALG (A Backward Glance)

The words ONWARDS and REBIRTH are unique in that there are three other words spelled backwards centered in each word.

ONWARDS - DRAWN - RAW - A  
REBIRTH - TRIBE - RIB - I

Note that ONWARDS is especially appealing since DRAWN has two words (WAR, A) spelled backwards centered in it. Any others?

### **SUBJECT: KINDA PUNNY**

”Here is something I captured off the Internet,” Ray confesses. “It is great pun fun. Some are old, many are new. It had me in stitches even though my body has never been visited by a needle and thread. If some of these don't make you smile, you are hiding a mouth full of no teeth.”

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
12. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
13. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, "You stay here, I'll go on a head."
14. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
15. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: "Keep off the Grass."
16. A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, "No change yet."
17. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
18. It's not that the man did not know how to juggle, he just didn't have the balls to do it.
19. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
20. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
21. A backward poet writes inverse.
22. In democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
23. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
24. Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects!

### **READER RESPONSE: BLOOPER BLOOPERS?**

*Frank Rubin writes:*

I enjoyed Don Hauptman's article, "Rocket Surgery," in the May 2008 *Word Ways*. But not all the items he cites are necessarily bloopers.

The legislation to make "shooting animals through the Internet" illegal is a very real concern of animal rights groups. There are preserves where a "sportsman" can go to shoot birds, deer, or other animals in a way that guarantees success. The bird or animal is placed within an enclosure so small that it has no chance of escape. This can also be accomplished via the Internet. The "hunter" uses his keyboard or mouse to turn, raise, lower, and fire a real weapon at real animals.

Another item pokes fun at a website that refers to "a series of fatal strokes." It sounds odd, but it's possible. If someone suffers two or more strokes close together, and their combined effect kills him, they are justifiably called "a series of fatal strokes." It's possible that the last stroke would not have been fatal without the earlier ones, or that the fatal one was not the last one.

*Don Hauptman replies:*

Frank's exegesis is impressive and fascinating. Either or both these items might still qualify as bloopers, however; their authors may not have known all the facts he knows. In

any case, I'll flag them for vetting before including them in my forthcoming book. Truly hath it been said: "Things are seldom what they seem."

## **FANBOYS**

"The title of the 2009 film FANBOYS," Rich Lederer discovered, "turns out to an acrostic of the seven coordinating conjunctions in English."

FOR, AND, NOR, BUT, OR, YET, SO

## **SYLLABIC HOMOPHONES**

Rich has found "an especially elegant and versatile set of homophonic syllables. Can any WORD WAYS reader top these examples?"

123 123 TUBAS ARE TOO BIZARRE.

123 231 ARE TUBAS TOO BIZARRE?

1123 1123 TWO TUBAS ARE TOO, TOO BIZARRE.

## **WROD**

What is a wrod? I've typed that one many times, and I always think of it as a misspelling or a typographic error. After all, I intended it to be word. Or did I? Did my subconscious make my fingers hit the keys to purposely spell it that way. I've come to the conclusion that wrod should be a legal dictionary word. What is a wrod? A pencil is a wrod = writing rod.

## **TWO TALES WITH PALINDROMIC ENDINGS**

To put the first of these two palindromes together, I used phrases that have appeared in other palindromes that were usually a little shorter. To put the second one together, I had to clarify a few facts about a writer's life.

In a pub in Stratford England, a failed actor gets drunk. He sees a famous actor, who recently played King Henry the Eighth to great critical acclaim, come in, sit at the bar, and boast about his new Lamborghini. The failed actor thinks of his own dull-looking car. He pulls out a gun and shoots the famous actor to death. The palindrome sums up the incident: RED RUM, LAGER, AVON BAR: "DRAT STAR! DRAB NOVA! REGAL MURDER!"

Edmond Clerihew Bentley created the Clerihew, a four-line poem with an AABB rhyme scheme and an irregular rhythm. His son, Larry Hugh Clerihew ignored his father's creation. Instead he became interested in palindromes. He opened his own bookstore

and put up the following sign letting people know that there were jobs available: WE HIRE—L. CLERIHEW

## **TWO PALINDROMES ALMOST A CENTURY APART**

Enavlicm (E.J. McIlvane) wrote in *The Eastern Enigma*, June 1912:  
DID I SEE YOSEMITE? NINE TIMES! O, YE-ES I DID!

I wrote in *Word Ways*, February 2009, in reply to Enavlicm:  
YOSEMITE? NINE TIMES? Oy!

## **WEATHER REPORT FOR IOWA CITY**

It snowed on and off for a week. Then it got very cold, 40 below with the wind-chill factor. I was supposed to begin teaching, but the first two days of classes were called off. I looked out my window. This is what I said to myself:

“I see.”

“I see I.C.”

“I see icy I.C.”

“I see eye see icy I.C.”

“Aye, si, I see eye see icy I.C.”

“Aye, si, I see eye see icy I.C. ice sea.”

## **McDUCK NUMBERS**

In the mythology of Duckville, Uncle Scrooge McDuck is the richest duck in the world. Ub Iwerks, who wrote and drew most of the *Uncle Scrooge Comics*, was a cartoon genius. Although Iwerks is gone, his classic works with Disney continue to hold their magic long after they were created. In order to express Uncle Scrooge’s vast fortune, Iwerks created incalculably large numbers. Below is a complete list of 21 McDuck Numbers that I copied as separate units. In actual comic book usage, they are accompanied by regular number names to make something that looks like a regular number, such as “Five billion quintuplatillion umptuplatillion multuplatillion impossibidillion and so forth dollars and extra odd cents.” Two of the numbers have AIRE at the end to signify a person who has that much money. Two other pairs of numbers have almost the same spelling, and they might have been misspelled in the website where they are listed ([cbarks.dk/theseerieswealth.htm](http://cbarks.dk/theseerieswealth.htm)). The website presents the full numbers (“Five billion quintuplatillion...”) in two lists—alphabetical and chronological. Does anyone know of any other made-up number names from comic books or any other source.

amplifatillion  
billionjillion  
centrifugalillion  
doubledecadecillion

hyperfantasticatillionaire  
impossibidillion  
kumquatmafrillion  
multuplatillion

quintuplatillion  
skyrillion  
triplicatillion  
umptillion

fabulatillion  
fantasticatillion  
fantasticatrillionaire

multipludillion  
quadruplatillion  
quadruplicatillion

umtuplatillion  
umtuplatillion  
uncountabalillions

## **A GRAIN OF TRUTH**

Thou, ocean,  
Thy sand  
Isn't infinite  
And

Thou, beach,  
Thy sand  
Is finite  
Land.

Thou, sand,  
Thy ocean  
And land  
Are in motion

Thou, sand,  
Please say  
How many  
Grains play?

How grand,  
Thou, sand!  
Thou say  
"Thousand."

## **MORICE FINALLY MAKES THE "A" LIST**

"The number ONE THOUSAND is the first number that includes the letter A," says Rich Lederer. "So congratulations to you, Dave, for reaching page one thousand. You finally got an A!"

## **ON THE THOUSANDTH PAGE**

The next page is my thousandth Kickshaws page. As mentioned in the previous issue, I wanted to do something special for this page. I thought about writing the numbers from 1 to 1000, but that would be boring. Then I thought about signing the page, but one lonesome signature doesn't do much on a single white page. Instead I decided to sign it one thousand times. I was curious to see what visual image would appear. Since I live in Iowa, I thought it might turn into a farm scene. After doing a hundred signatures, I noticed that an image was taking shape. It looked like the left side of a person's head.

So I took the paper and pen into the bathroom and stood before the mirror to see if I could sign/draw myself. By the time I reached a thousand signatures, the result, on the thousandth page, turned out to be my "Signature Self-Portrait." And with that, the curtain comes down, and the show is over. Till next time.

